

Message Text

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PAGE 01 GENEVA 00986 111233Z
ACTION DHA-02

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 ORM-02 H-02 OMB-01 TRSE-00 AID-05
/026 W

-----111237Z 007326 /13

P 111200Z FEB 77
FM USMISSION GENEVA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5134

UNCLAS GENEVA 0986

FOR D/HA, WILSON

EO 11652: NA
TAGS: SREF
SUBBJ: ICEM LOAN FUND FOR REFUGEES FROM EASTER EUROPE

REF: STATE 24741

MISSION HAS RECEIVED FOLLOWING MESSAGE FOR YOUR FROM
THE DIRECTOR OF THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL COMMITTEE
FOR EUROPEAN MIGRATION (ICEM) IN RESPONSE TO MESSAGE
CONTAINED REFTEL.

QUOTE:

FOR THE HONORABLE JAMES M. WILSON JR
COORDINATOR FOR HUMANITARIAN AFFAIRS
DEPARTMENT OF STATE
WASHINGTON DC

DEAR MR WILSON
REFERENCE IS MADE TO THE LETTER OF 4 FEBRUARY 1977 RECEIVED FROM
MR. BRENNAN OF THE US MISSION GENEVA X SINCE THE SUBJECT IS A
RATHER COMPLEX ONE REQUIRING A LENGTHY REPLY COMMA I THOUGHT IT
MIGHT BE BEST TO WRITE DIRECTLY TO YOU THROUGH THE US MISSION X
I TOO COMMA HAVE BEEN EQUALLY DISAPPOINTED IN THE LACK OF POSITIVE
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RESPONSE FROM THE ICEM MEMBER GOVERNMENTS TO OUR APPEAL LETTER OF
7 SEPTEMBER 1976 X THIS HAS BEEN COMPOUNDED BY THE REPORTS OF A
NEGATIVE REACTION TO THE SUPPORTING EFFORTS MADE BY THE UNITED
STATES DIRECTLY WITH SEVERAL GOVERNMENTS ON A DIPLOMATIC LEVEL X
LAST WEEK THE ICEM CHEFS OF MISSION (COM S) IN THE EUROPEAN
MEMBER COUNTRIES WERE IN GENEVA FOR OUR ANNUAL MEETING X WE REVIEWED
ST LENGTH OUR REQUIREMENTS FOR THE REFUGEE LOAN FUND AND THE LACK

OF RESPONSE FROM GOVERNMENTS FOR CONTRIBUTIONS TO REPLENISH THE FUND X SEVERAL INTERESTING COMMENTS WERE MADE WHICH I PASS ON TO YOU FOR YOUR INFORMATION X

1. WE HAVE NOT HAD ANY DEBATE FOR YEARS ON THE REFUGEE LOAN FUND UNTIL THE US DELEGATION RAISED THE QUESTION OF THE NEED FOR ADDITIONAL FUNDING AT THE COUNCIL SESSION LAST FALL COMMA CONSEQUENTLY OUR MEMBER GOVERNMENTS FELT THAT THE FUND HAD ADEQUATE RESOURCES TO MEET REQUIREMENTS X

2. GOVERNMENTS HAVE COME TO REGARD THE REFUGEE LOAN FUND AS A MEANS FOR THE UNITED STATES TO MEET ONE OF ITS MAJOR INTERESTS I.E. THE MOVEMENT OF JEWS FROM THE SOVIET UNION TO ISRAEL X YOU WILL RECALL THE LARGE AMOUNT OF PUBLICITY THIS SUBJECT HAS RECEIVED IN THE UNITED STATES AND HOW THE FINANCIAL SUPPORT TO ISRAEL IN THE FIELD OF MIGRATION (INCLUDING TRANSPORT COSTS) RECEIVED SUCH WIDE ATTENTION IN PREVIOUS US PRESIDENTIAL CAMPAIGNS X

3. IT HAS NOT BEEN POSSIBLE FOR ICEM TO OVERCOME THE REACTIONS MENTIONED ABOVE (PARA2) IN SPITE OF OUR REPEATED AND DETAILED EXPLANATION TO MEMBER GOVERNMENTS OF THE INCREASING NUMBERS OF NON-JEWS WHO ARE DEPARTING FROM EASTERN EUROPEAN COUNTRIES AND WHO ARE IN NEED OF FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE X

4. ALTHOUGH ICEM HAS ATTEMPTED IN MANY WAYS TO LINK THE NEED FOR CAPITALIZATION OF THE FUND WITH THE CSCE FINAL ACT IN ORDER TO MEET ANY INCREASE IN MOVEMENTS RESULTING FROM THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE FAMILY REUNIFICATION SECTION COMMA MOST EUROPEAN COUNTRIES ARE BIDDING THEIR TIME IN COMING TO ANY DECISION ON THIS X IT HAS NOT BEEN POSSIBLE AT THIS STAGE TO GENERATE CONCERN ABOUT THE FINANCING OF THESE MOVEMENTS SINCE THE POTENTIAL CASELOAD AND NEED IS DIFFICULT TO DEFINE X

5. THE CONCERN RAISED BY THE UNITED STATES DELEGATION WITH REGARD TO UNCLASSIFIED

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THE FINANCING OF THE OPERATIONAL BUDGET OF ICEM HAS AFFECTED THE ATTITUDE OF ICEM MEMBER GOVERNMENTS X THEY ARE ANXIOUS TO SEE WHAT PROPOSALS THE UNITED STATES WILL COME UP WITH AND ARE RELUCTANT TO SEEK AD HOC CONTRIBUTIONS (SUCH AS FOR THE LOAN FUND) UNTIL THEY KNOW THE TOTAL EXTENT OF THEIR RESPONSIBILITY UNDER ANY NEW MEASURES RECOMMENDED BY THE SCBF AFTER ITS SPECIAL MEETING NEXT MONTH X THERE MAY BE A FEW OTHER ELEMENTS INVOLVED PERTINENT TO INDIVIDUAL COUNTRIES BUT THE ABOVE OUTLINES THE MAIN ITEMS OF CONCERN X

THE ICEM COM S WERE INSTRUCTED TO REOPEN THE QUESTION OF THE LOAN FUND CONTRIBUTIONS ON THEIR RETURN TO THEIR POSTS X THE ADMINISTRATION WILL ALSO ADDRESS A WRITTEN INSTRUCTION TO EACH TO STRENGTHEN THEIR HAND WHEN DEALING WITH THE GOVERNMENT X IT MIGHT BE HELPFUL TO US IF YOU WERE TO DELINEATE THE REACTIONS RECEIVED BY THE VARIOUS US EMBASSIES TO THE US APPEAL X THESE MIGHT REVEAL ASPECTS ON WHICH WE MIGHT TAILOR OUR NEW APPROACH X MY PERSONAL FEELING IS THAT SHOULD THE US CONTINUE TO MAKE ITS SUPPORT KNOWN AT A HIGH LEVEL AND THE SCBF MEETING ON 31 MARCH SUFFICIENTLY EMPHASIZES THE REQUIREMENTS FOR FINANCIAL AID TO THE FUND COMMA THAT MANY GOVERNMENTS WILL RESPOND BY THE TIME OF THE

MAY EXECUTIVE MEETING X

THE ADMINISTRATION RENEWS ITS PLEDGE TO DO EVERYTHING POSSIBLE TO
ATTRACT ADDITIONAL CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE REFUGEE LOAN FUND X LAST
WEEK COMMA FOR EXAMPLE COMMA I HAD A LONG TALK WITH DIRECTOR
GENERAL RENEE FOURDIN OF BELGIUM AND I AM HOPEFUL THAT HIS COUNTRY
WILL RESPOND POSITIVELY X

SINCERELY YOURS

JOHN F. THOMAS

DIRECTOR ICEM

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: REFUGEE RELIEF, ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 11-Feb-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977GENEVA00986
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770049-0819
Format: TEL
From: GENEVA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770251/aaaabssr.tel
Line Count: 127
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 0ff8f5c7-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION DHA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 STATE 24741
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 15-Oct-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3345792
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: BJ: ICEM LOAN FUND FOR REFUGEES FROM EASTER EUROPE
TAGS: SREF, SZ
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/0ff8f5c7-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009